

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): An optical fiber cutting device comprising a speed reducing part which transmits drive force by reducing the drive speed of the external drive force, a drive force transmission part which transmits the drive force from the speed reduction part to the cutting blade holder, a cutting blade holder, a cutting blade which is held by the cutting blade holder and moves to the cutting position along with said cutting blade holder, and an optical fiber supporter which supports the optical fiber so as to be perpendicular to said cutting blade at the cutting position.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): An optical fiber cutting device according to Claim 1 wherein said drive force is provided by the rotation of a motor, said speed reducing part is a set of speed reducing gears which reduces the speed of the rotation of said motor, and further, said drive force transmission part comprises a cam which rotates along with the rotation of said set of speed reduction gears and a cam follower which moves in a rectilinear direction along with the rotation of said cam.

Claims 3-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber, comprising the steps of:

moving a cutting blade by applying a drive force so as to transit a center portion of an optical fiber;

~~preventing acceleration of said cutting blade~~

reducing an amount of the drive force applied to said cutting blade after said cutting blade transits the center of said optical fiber by a drive speed reduction device to move said cutting blade at a constant speed; and
automatically stopping transmission of said drive force to said cutting blade.

Claims 18-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein the moving step further comprises moving said cutting blade is moved by using an optical fiber cutting apparatus including said cutting blade, applying said drive force to a cutting blade holder, configured to hold and to move said cutting blade to a cutting position, an optical fiber supporter configured to support said optical fiber so as to position it perpendicular to said cutting blade at said cutting position, a speed reducing device configured to receive and to reduce a drive force, and a drive force transmission device configured to transfer said drive force from said speed reducing device to said cutting blade holder said cutting blade holder configured to hold said cutting blade and to receive said drive force from said drive speed reduction device through a drive force transmission device to move said cutting blade.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 21, wherein said drive force is provided by a motor.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 22, wherein the applying step further comprises applying said drive force to said cutting blade holder from said drive speed reducing device comprises reduction device

including a plurality of speed reducing gears configured to reduce a rotational speed of said motor.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 23, wherein the applying step further comprises applying said drive force to said cutting blade holder through said drive force transmission device ~~comprises~~ including a cam configured to rotate along with ~~[[the]]~~ a rotation of said plurality of speed reducing gears, and a cam follower configured to move in a rectilinear direction along with ~~[[the]]~~ a rotation of said cam.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to claim 23, wherein the moving step further comprises transmitting said drive force between said drive force transmission part and said motor by forcibly rotating one of said plurality of speed reducing gears, said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears meshing gear teeth ~~[[are]]~~ provided on a part of an outer periphery of one of said speed reducing gears thereof ~~and second~~ with gear teeth ~~[[are]]~~ provided on an outer periphery of the other another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears; ~~and a transmission of said drive force between said motor and said drive force transmission part is performed by forcibly rotating one of said speed reducing gears so as to mesh said gear teeth to said second gear teeth of the other of said speed reducing gears, and~~ the automatically stopping step further comprises facing of a part of said outer periphery of said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears having no gear teeth being provided to said gear teeth provided on said outer periphery of said another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears ~~the transmission of said drive force between said motor and said drive force transmission part is automatically stopped due to facing of said outer periphery of one of said speed reducing gears at which said gear teeth are not provided~~

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Reply to Office Action of January 30, 2004

~~to said second gear teeth of the other of said speed reducing gears as a result of rotation of
said speed reducing gears.~~